

fast and furious than ever, since now debates and a real fight could be staged

At the first Annual Meeting of the National Committee, it was decided to change its name, instead of being dedicated to the Break-up of the Poor Law, it was to become an organ for "The Prevention of Destitution " In fact

"within half a year, at the beginning of 1910, it became clear to the propagandists of the Minority Report that the frontal attack on the existence of the Boards of Guardians, bound up with so ancient an institution as the "relief" of destitution, was, in view of the prepossessions of the Liberal Cabinet of the time, unlikely to achieve any success in the political field More effective results might be obtained, in the long run, by promoting, through an unsectanan organisation, the growth of development of the various parts of the Framework of Prevention "

If these reasons for the change of name were clear enough in the minds of its authors, the change in itself registered the fact that the more ardent of the supporters of the proposals of the Minority Report were claiming for them, more and more insistently, the efficacy of a complete scheme of social reconstruction, through which poverty could be wiped out Nor, on the platform, was this panacea attitude always avoided by Mrs Webb, although it was never taken by him She has a great platform personality Her picturesque appearance, her penetrating voice, her vivid manner, her rich flow of words, her ardent conviction—all contributed to give her a real sway over large audiences; and she was not immune from the exaggerations into which successful speakers are apt to fall.

Anyhow, during 1910, and into 1911, the tide of work

and of apparent success rolled on The
capture of the
Union, both at Cambridge and at Oxford, was
typical of
what was happening They got the young, to a
very large
extent. The membership of the National
Committee
mounted. Scottish and Welsh National
Committees were

¹ *English Poor Law Histotjr* p 721